Development (195 48) Department

SERIES.

G.O. No. G.O.No.1385

Dated 18th March 1948

[Despatch Abstract.]

Mines - Geological Survey of India - Mapping and geological survey - Madras Province - Establishment of a separate Geological Survey Party - Proposals of the Director of Industries and Commerce Orders passed.

INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

From
T.M.S. Mani Esq., O.B.E., I.C.S.,
Director of Industries & Commerce,
Chepauk, Madras

To
The Secretary to Government,
Development Department,
Fort St. George, Madras.

No. 522-A.1/48, dated 12th February 1948.

Sir

Industries - Development - Geological survey and Mapping - Proposals - submitted.

As Government are well aware, unbroken Geological investigations taken up to the stage of actual mining operations is a pre-requisite of well-regulated Industrial Development. Such investigations should embrace quantitative and qualitative analyses of the minerals found and laboratory and other tests for this purpose, and facilitate mining operations and their ultimate translation to industrial enterprises.

The present position in the Madras Presidency is unsatisfactory. There has been no thorough investigation and mapping of our mineral resources, with the result that it has been difficult to plan our industrial development on sound lines and execute efficiently the few industrial enterprises that have been undertaken.

A Geological Survey Party of the Government of India is working in Madras, but there has been no continuity in Geological investigations. Investigation in respect of a few minerals is carried on for a few months and work is stopped pending laboratory analyses in Calcutta, further investigation being taken up much later, for another short period. Drilling equipment is not adequate and so also facilities for Geo-physical work.

It is the imperative need of the hour to put our Geological and Geophysical work on a sound and efficient basis, if we are to develop our mineral resources for the benefit of the country as a whole.

What is wanted is a self-contained Geological Survey party with facilities for laboratory and Geo-physical work, adequate drilling equipment and sufficient office staff, so that it can carry on its work without break and without being dependent on laboratories in Calcutta and elsewhere, involving a considerable waste of time and effort.

The Government of India which has often stated that it is fully alive to the importance of quick minerological investigations should only be too glad to improve the present position, when it is brought to its notice.

4. As regards laboratory facilities, the laboratory now housed in the Leather Trades Institute might be expaneded and put on a permanent basis as suggested in my letter No.4896-E.3/47 dated 9-8-47 with reference to the recommendation of the Industrial Research Organisation Committee, made on 30-3-1947, with a view to ultimate incorporation in a General Research Laboratory. In fact, the laboratory can, in due course, be made self-supporting, by the levy of fees for all analyses done on behalf of private parties. At present such "private" analyses are, I understand, being done in institutions in Bombay and Calcutta. If our own laboratory is placed on a permanent basis and expanded to the extent called for by the work offering, there need be no separate laboratory to deal with analyses of Geological samples.

particular and very important mineral. It seems reasonably certain that there are excellent possibilities of obtaining Iron ore in Salem. I understand that the phosperous content of the ore can be eliminated and the quality of the main ore improved by adopting the American Process of passing the ground ore through electro-magnets. The further investigation of this very important ore is at a stand-still. The Central Government may be requested to have large samples sea sent to Canada or America for detailed analyses and for ascertaining the best method of extracting iron from the ore. It might also be possible to have tests made at the steel factory at Bhadravati in Mysore.

8. I request that the matters referred to in the preceding paragraphs be taken up immediately with the Central Government and arrangements made for a self-contained and well equipped and staffed ~~Gmx~~ Geological Survey Unit working continuously, and for the urgent further investigation of the Salem Iron ores.

Sd/ T.M.S. Mani,
Director of Industries & Commerce.

INDUSTRIES - Development - Geological Survey and mapping Proposal

From the Director of Industries & Commerce No.522-AI/43, dated 12th February 1948.

Please see the letter from the Director of Industries and Commerce at pp.1-2 c.f. P. & D. IV and P. & D. III Sections are concerned with the paragraphs 4 and 5 of the letter respectively. Necessary extracts from the letter may be given to those sections for taking action.

2. The proposal of the Director is that Government of India may be addressed requesting them to make arrangements for the establishment of a self-contained, well-equipped and staffed Geological Survey Party at Madras. That the Geological Survey Party working at Madras is not well staffed and equipped has been felt long ago. With a view to speed up the pace of geological investigation this Government examined the question of forming a nucleus of Geological staff consisting of one Superintending Geologist and 12 Assistant Geologists for work in this Province. For a detailed history of the proposal and the circumstances under which the Government had to drop the question, attention is invited to the typed notes at pp.84-89 n.f. of G.O.Ms.No.330 Dev. dated 28-1-1947.

3. Consequent upon the re-organization of the Geological Survey Department, the mineral development division has been separated from the Southern Circle of the Geological Survey stationed at Madras, with the result that it was converted into purely a mapping circle. The chart showing the new set up of the geological survey of India at P. 179(a) c.f. of G.O. at (P) may be perused. According to the revised set up the whole of the work in Madras Province will come under the Superintending Geologist in charge of the Southern Circle, except for any drilling, geological or mining operations that may be undertaken and even those operations, it is stated, will be conducted in close collaboration with the Superintending Geologist in charge of the Circle. A special feature of this year's field season programme is that a certain number of officers from the specialist section i.e. Rare minerals and Engineering Geological sections, have been allotted for work in this circle. From this it is evident that geological survey department are alive to this province's geophysical and engineering geological problems and that they are deputing a certain number of officers specially for work in this Province. The number of the officers working in this Province for the current field season programme has also been increased to 16 officers, in addition to the 5 officers allocated from the specialist sections. It is quite likely that the strength of the officers of the Southern Circle may further be increased as promised by the Government of India that they would increase the number of officers working in the Southern Circle to 20 officers when the Central Staff is fully expanded which, it was stated, will be in 1948.

5. This Government have impressed upon the Government of India the need for a well-equipped laboratory for carrying assays and analysis of minerals, the want of which is standing in the way of the early preparation and submission of Geological Survey reports on the work done by the officers and requested them to make arrangements for establishing a laboratory at the Circle Office at Madras. To this, India have replied that the lack of proper accommodation for housing the Southern Circle office of the Geological Survey is the chief bottle-neck and that when the accommodation is secured, arrangements will be made for setting up such a laboratory. Public Department have recently been requested to allot suitable private accommodation building....

building for the office of the Southern Circle and it can be expected that the Laboratory will be established in the near future i.e. soon after accommodation is found for the office of the Geological Survey of India.

6. It may also be noted here that Sri Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power in the Government of India has since been addressed to depute a special Geological Survey Party for carrying out an intensive survey of the Ceded districts and the coal bearing areas in the Godavary valley The reply of the India Government in the matter is awaited.

In these circumstances it is for orders whether it will be considered necessary to address the Government of India as suggested by the Director of Industries and Commerce in his letter at pp.1-2-c.f.

In view of A & B above, no special action appears to be needed now.

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Dev. (P & D-IV) Dept.

The proposal of the Director of Industries of Industries and Commerce referred to in para 4 on p.1 c.f. for the establishment of a chemical analytical and testing laboratory is separately under the consideration of Government. The D. I & C. has been asked to furnish an estimate of the extra cost involved in the proposal taking into ~~kkm~~ account the savings that would be effected by absorbing the temporary staff now working in the existing Mineral Research Section and his reply in the matter is awaited. No extracts seem necessary as no action is called for separately on this item.

Development Department.

To A.S.

Please see the orders of Secretary at the bottom of p.3 above. P. & D-III and P. & D-IV have to take further action on the orders. Max Necessary extracts may be given to the sections and the papers may be recorded for future reference.

P.S.V.
18-3-48.

G.O.Ms.No.1355 Development, dated 18-3-1948.

MINES - Geological Survey of India - Mapping and geological survey, Madras Province - Establishment of a separate Geological Survey Party - Proposals of the Director of Industries and Commerce - Orders passed.

(True copy)

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

18/9/9